

VDFP LOGBOOK

Virginia Department of Fire Programs Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 3

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VDFP RECEIVES FUNDING TO FURTHER PROGRAM GROWTH IN VA



The Virginia Department of Fire Programs has received funding which will be used to expand its public safety initiatives.

One of the areas that the agency wanted to strengthen was in the area of public education. Currently, public fire and life safety initiatives are spread over numerous state agencies. These agencies don't have the resources to develop and coordinate a comprehensive statewide safety initiative that encompasses the multi-facets of safety that face today's youth.

"Virginia citizens don't have a focal point when it comes to fire and life safety," explains Kelli Turner, Communications, Public Affairs and Education Manager, Virginia Department of Fire Programs. "Volunteer departments, many career and combination departments, and state agencies lack the resources necessary to provide a sufficient level of public fire and life safety education."

In the petition to Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) program for Fire Prevention and Safety programs, VDFP proposed a program which will encourage partnerships to foster not only fire safety and prevention activities, but many facets of safety for daily living. The program, when implemented will pool resources among statewide partners to assist the public educator and empower the parents/teachers/caregivers to provide a sufficient

level of fire and life safety education statewide in order to reduce the overall fire related deaths and injuries.

There were three components proposed to facilitate this objective:

1. Fire and Life Safety Resource Kits

These kits will combine the existing resources from numerous state agencies and organizations. The kits will empower parents, teachers, and caregivers of children as well as public educators to teach fire safety to today's youth. We will provide train-the-trainer sessions on the materials in the fire and life safety resource kits. We will provide a kit to every fire department in Virginia. The kits will also be available to the general public through our seven division offices, and at additional events and conferences in Virginia. Information on the kits will be available on partners' websites so that citizens can easily request kits and fire departments can reorder materials.

2. Educational Seminars

With the lack of resources and currently no coordinated efforts, we have been limited to minimal venues to share vital information. There has been limited participation in these events due to the travel requirements for many public fire and life safety educators. Historically, seminars have targeted the fire and life safety educator, leaving behind the parent, teachers and caregivers. We will host seven seminars held in each of the seven VDFP Division areas (Richmond, Hampton,

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May 2004

VDFP SET TO KICK OFF NEW INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAM

VDFP has developed a fire and life safety program that targets children and senior citizens--the two most likely groups to be injured or killed in a fire.

On May 28, 2004 at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Richmond's Historic Jackson Ward community, VDFP will kick off "The Buddy System"—an intergenerational fire and life safety program which will provide vital fire and life safety education to seniors and children under the age of 14 (both are at high risk of being injured or dying in a fire) while strengthening community relations.

"We are particularly excited about this program because it touches on an issue close to our hearts," says Kelli Turner, Communications, Public Affairs and Education Manager.

"Statistically seniors and children are the most vulnerable in a threatening situation and this program provides us with an opportunity to empower them; and hopefully we will begin to see a decline in fatality numbers for these two groups."

The Buddy System will utilize the existing audience base formed by established intergenerational programs such as grandparent/grandchild programs, foster grandparent programs, and other mentoring programs that lack a fire and life safety component. As a result, VDFP will be able to easily fit these programs with a fire safety education component targeted to both seniors and children under the age of 14.

VDFP will provide seniors with fire and life safety curriculum for children under the age of 14. This curriculum was developed with the volunteer educator in mind and can be taught in a variety of settings and venues and is adaptable to numerous demographics. Personal training will be available on using the curriculum and a "how to" video will be available in lieu of personal training. Seniors will also receive vital senior specific fire safety and fall prevention education.

The program will be promoted through our department as well as through partnerships with the Department of Aging and senior citizen networks. Kits with curriculum and program support materials will be available upon request through VDFP.



VDFP FYI

SAFETY/TRAINING TIP

AVOID:

Personal Protective Clothing Contamination (Part I)

Clean your gear each time you're involved in a working incident. Residual contamination is left on the surface of your PPE and SCBA. Without thorough cleaning, you risk contaminating yourself, a colleague or a loved one.

PUBLIC EDUCATION TIP

Kitchen Safety Tip: Establish a "Safety Area"

Establish a "safety area" in the kitchen to keep small children confined and away from hot surfaces, hot liquids or flames.

- As a general rule keep small children 3 feet away from the stove or oven area.

VDFP RECEIVES FUNDING TO FURTHER PROGRAM...

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Roanoke, Loudon, Orange, Marion, Southside). The seminars will be a forum for public fire and life safety educators and our statewide safety partners to train other educators, parents, teachers and caregivers on the resource kits and to share knowledge on the latest safety issues. Hosting the seminars in the different division areas will allow for more people to attend as well as spread fire and life safety messages to underserved areas.

3. Media Campaign

A state driven/statewide media campaign will be implemented to effectively target and reach Virginia's at risk citizens. Consistent messages of the media campaign will be that the state provides a united front on various fire and life safety issues. Contacts for additional information on specific subject matters will help direct citizens. This campaign can be easily adapted and customized for use by any fire department. This campaign will lend itself to a uniform, statewide fire and life safety message.

The other area slated to receive grant support is VDFP's Training and Operations branch. They have been awarded funds from the Rural Access to Emergency Devices Grant Program to install automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) in agency vehicles that participate in firefighting training exercises regionally and statewide.

"It is another tool to provide better service to the citizens of the commonwealth," says Billy Shelton, Branch Chief - Training and Technical Service, Virginia Department of Fire Programs. "AEDs can save lives faster than CPR and are proven for use by the American Medical Association."

Five areas will receive the AEDs including: Southwest Virginia Area 3 (Marion office); Central Virginia Area 4 (Roanoke Office); Northern Virginia Area 2 (Orange office); Eastern Virginia Area 5 (Hampton Office); and the Capital Virginia Area 1 (Richmond Office).

Virginia Fire Services Board Update

The Virginia Fire Services Board is currently reviewing the Burn Building Policy as the current cycle is coming to an end. Their goal is to provide the fire services in Virginia with the most opportunities to receive adequate training. Comments from the public are welcome as they review and revise the policy.

The new Shipboard Response for Land Based firefighters will be piloted in the upcoming months. The VFSB approved the program at the April Board meeting in Charlottesville. The training program will be suitable

for land-based firefighters in coastal or river areas, such as NOVA, Tidewater and Richmond metro.

The VFSB Code Change and Development Subcommittee has been meeting and will continue to meet throughout the upcoming code adoption cycle. They have worked with various organizations and state agencies to build consensus regarding tenuous issues brought up during the 2004 Virginia General Assembly session, such as Christmas trees in places of worship and multi-family dwelling units, and black/smokeless powder.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

Investigator Recertification Seminar
May 19, 2004
George Mason University (Dewberry Hall)
Fairfax, VA

Pulaski Regional Fire School
May 22-23, 2004
Pulaski, VA

The Buddy System (VDFP Intergenerational Fire Safety Program) Kick-Off
May 28, 2004
Ebenezer Baptist Church
Richmond, VA

JUNE

VFSB Board Meeting
June 4-5
Richmond, in conjunction with the
Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service

JULY

2004 Virginia Fire Instructor College
July 9-11, 2004
Roanoke College Salem, VA

AUGUST

2004 Virginia State Fire Training Weekend
National Fire Academy
August 6-8, 2004

2004 Virginia State Firefighter's Association
118th Annual Convention
August 18-21, 2004
Roanoke, VA

VFSB Board Meeting
August 20-21
Roanoke, VA
In conjunction with the Virginia State Firefighters Convention

**Honor Guard Needed for 2004
VA Fallen FireFighter Memorial Service**

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more information.**